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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

London

R18E

SECRET/NOFORN
BRIEFING MEMO

August 20, 2007

TO: The Chargé

FROM: POL -- Maura Connelly MC

SUBJECT: British Request for Release of Five Guantanamo Detainees

PURPOSE

(C) Provide background for your meetings with Ambassador Williamson on August 21st at the Cabinet Office and Foreign Office regarding Guantanamo Bay detainees.

BACKGROUND

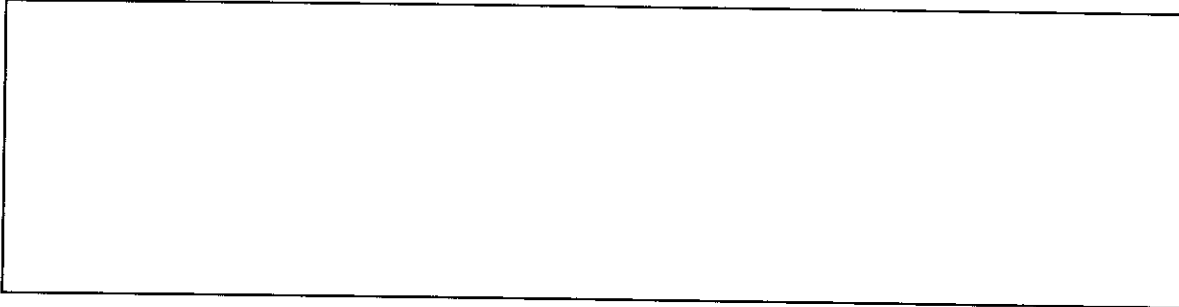
(S/NF) S/WCI Ambassador Clint Williamson is in London August 21 to meet with HMG officials to discuss the British request for the transfer from Guantanamo to the United Kingdom of five detainees who claim UK residency.

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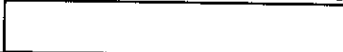

(S/NF) Williamson will have two meetings while in London; the first with Nick Gibbons at the Cabinet Office. Gibbons will have just been in Washington on August 20 at a meeting with Pentagon officials and attended by State (EUR/WE UK desk officer Leah Pease and S/WCI Deputy Director Milbert Shin) to discuss the British request. Pentagon officials will include Sandra Hodgkinson, now Director for Detainee Affairs (formally Deputy in S/WCI), her action officer Marisa Porges and, possibly, William J. Haynes II, General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

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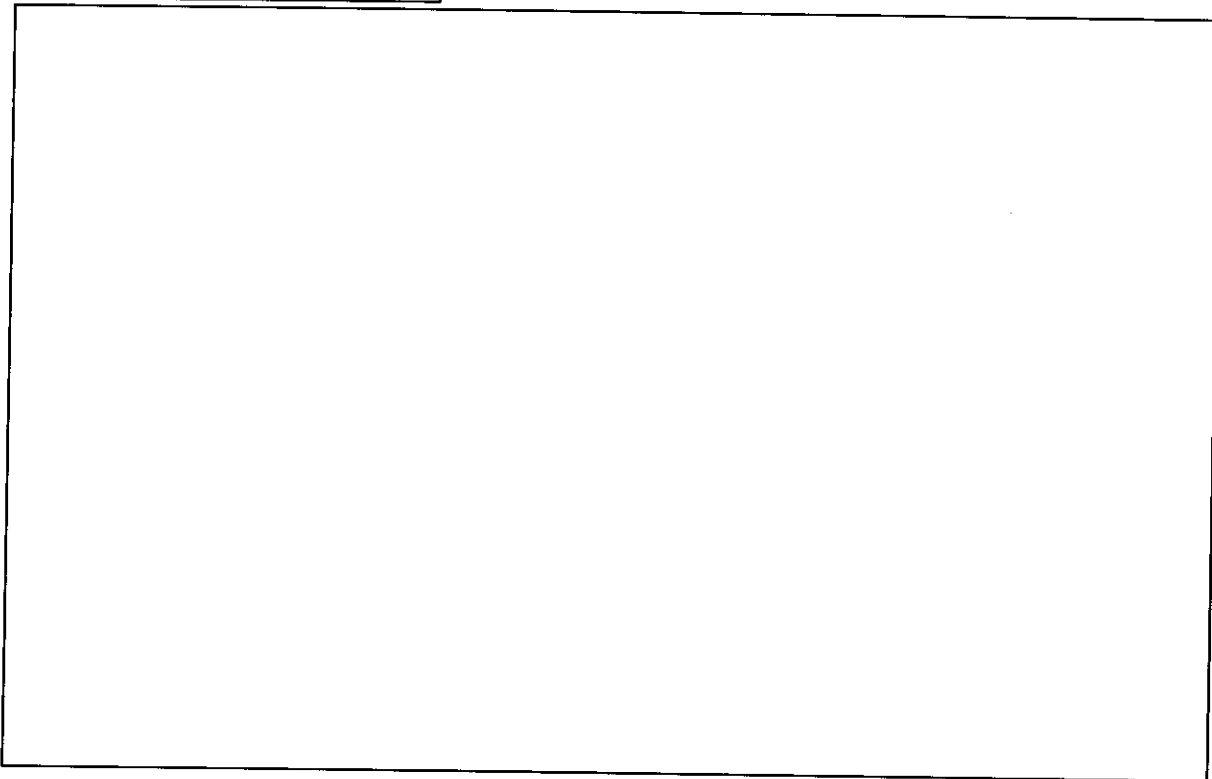
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(S/NF) Williamson will next meet with Dan Bethlehem, Legal Advisor at the Foreign Office. Bethlehem,  has had wide ranging conversations with USG officials about the larger questions regarding Guantanamo and the UK rejection of the USG position that existing legal frameworks (e.g. the Geneva Convention) do not apply to detainees held in Guantanamo or elsewhere in secret prisons. The Blair government advocated for the closure of Guantanamo, as does the Tory opposition and the current Brown government. Bethlehem will be joined by Foreign Office Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Policy Department, Sophie Honey, who is in charge of the Guantanamo dossier for the FCO 

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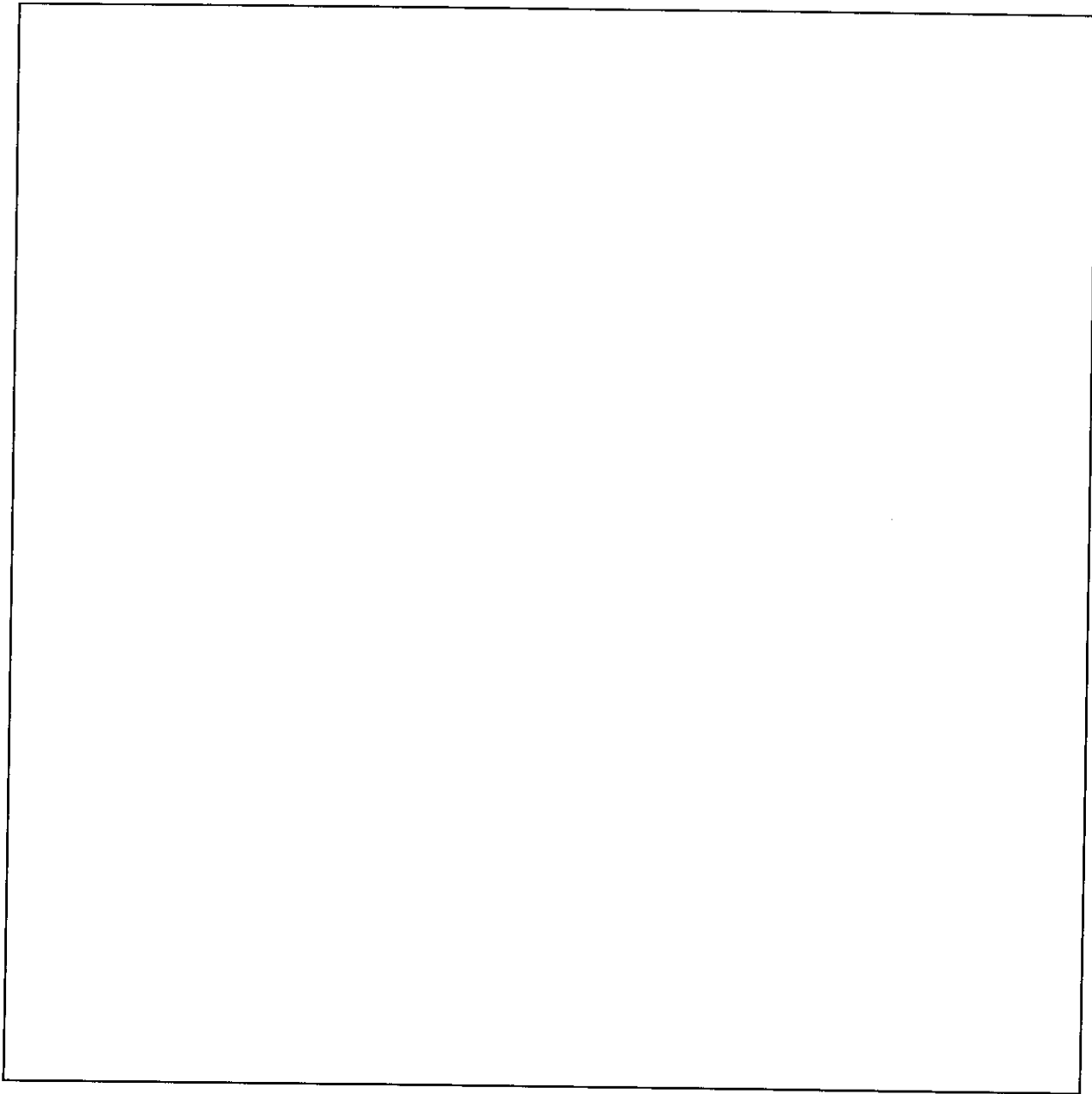
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